Title: The Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Manabendra Shah, a sitting member of 14th Lok Sabha and member of 2nd to 4th Lok Sabha & 10th to 13th Lok Sabha on 5.01.2007 and Shri Shyamacharan Shukla, member of 13th Lok Sabha on 14.02.2007 respectively. Also reference made to loss of lives in two bomb blasts that rocked the Pakistan bound Attari-Samjhauta Express near Panipat, Haryana on 18.02.2007 and the boat tragedy in Kerala in which fifteen students and three teachers of a primary school lost their lives when their boat capsized in the Bhoothathankettu Reservoir of the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary near Kothamangalam on 20.02.2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Manabendra Shah, a sitting Member of this House and one of our former colleagues, Shri Shyamacharan Shukla.

Shri Manabendra Shah was a sitting Member of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha representing Tehri Garhwal Parliamentary Constituency of Uttarakhand (erstwhile Uttaranchal). Shri Shah was also a Member of the Second to Fourth and Tenth to Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1957 to 1970 and 1991 to 2004, representing the same Parliamentary Constituency.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Shah was the Chairman, Committee on Health and Drinking Water for the Hills during the Third Lok Sabha and a Member, Committee on Finance and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Surface Transport during Tenth Lok Sabha.[R1]

In Eleventh Lok Sabha, he was Member, Committees on Public Undertakings and External Affairs and also of the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Power. During Twelfth Lok Sabha, he was the Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings and Member, General Purposes Committee, Committee on Transport and Tourism and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Defence. He served as Member, Committee on Home Affairs during Thirteenth Lok Sabha. He was the Member of General Purposes Committee, Committees on Estimates, Transport, Tourism and Culture in Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

A member of the erstwhile royal family, Shri Shah was actively associated with socio-religious and educational trusts, institutions and associations and also took keen interest in the development of hill regions. He served as Patron, Badri-Kedar Shrines, President, Temple Board of Management, Tehri Garhwal and Trustee of Maharaja Narendra Shah Trust and Maharaja Kirti Shah Trust.

Shri Shah served as Ambassador to Ireland from 1980 to 1983. A widely travelled person, Shri Shah was member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Australia in 1996.

Shri Manabendra Shah passed away on 5 January, 2007 at New Delhi at the age of 86, after a prolonged illness.

Shri Shyamacharan Shukla was a Member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2004, representing Mahasamund Parliamentary Constituency of Chhattisgarh (erstwhile Madhya Pradesh).

An able parliamentarian, Shri Shukla served as a Member of the Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals from 1999 to 2000 and thereafter in Consultative Committee, Ministry of Defence.

Earlier, Shri Shukla was Member, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly for six terms from 1957 to 1977 and 1990 to 1999. He was also the Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1969. Shri Shukla also adorned the office of Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh for three terms from 1969 to 1972, 1975 to 1977 and during 1989-90 and ably served the State.

A leader of the masses, Shri Shukla made significant contributions to the overall development of Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the fields of irrigation and agriculture, during his tenure as the Chief Minister.

Shri Shyamacharan Shukla passed away on 14 February, 2007 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh at the age of 82, after prolonged illness.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

As the hon. Members are aware, on 18 February, 2007, around 68 passengers lost their lives and several others were injured when two bomb blasts rocked the Pakistan bound Attari-Samjhauta Express near Panipat, Haryana. The powerful blasts set two bogies afire which were completely gutted.

The perpetrators of this senseless act of violence sought to derail the ongoing peace initiatives taken by India and Pakistan. Such acts of violence will not deter us from our fight against terrorism. Let us resolve to firmly deal with all such divisive forces and maintain peace and tranquility.

In another tragedy on 20 February, 2007, around 15 students and three teachers of a Primary School in Kerala lost their lives when their boat capsized in the Bhoothatthankettu Reservoir off the Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary near Kothamangalam.

The House expresses its profound grief over the loss of lives and injuries caused in these tragedies.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

12.43 hrs.

The members then stood in silence for a short while.

-

-

MR SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till Monday.

12.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Monday, February 26, 2007/Phalguna 7, 1928 (Saka). [r2]

[R1]Cd by b1

[r2] Friday, March 10, 2000/Phalguna 20, 1921 (Saka).